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7-18-1867

# Letter from James Frothingham Whitney, New York, to Anne Whitney, Rome, Italy, 1867 July 18

James Frothingham Whitney

Wellesley College Archives

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New York, July 18. 1867.

My dear Anne, If any thing I may have to say in this sheet don't afford you any particular pleasure, it will, I hope, be a relief to my guilty Conscience for leaving so long put off a duty that ought to have been made a pleasure to me long, long ago - From 2<sup>nd</sup> N.Y. to 18<sup>th</sup> July! It almost crazes me to think of it! A stranger in a strange land, I know how glad you must be to hear from this western world, from anybody, and at all times. Your kindred, (and I claim to be one of them,) should be the last to neglect you - If any thing is to be said in extenuation of my sin, - any apology or excuse for me, have mercy, I beseech you, spare me, and grant it as abundantly as you can. Your strongest ties Center at Belmont; there, I know, the outpourings of the purest love are constantly flowing to you, and every streamer takes a homelike courtesy to be welcomed and cherished. Were it not so, I should fall down to the dust, and to N.Y. need, & report; as it is, let me hold up my head, <sup>keep out of the mud,</sup> & say what little I have to say, as best I can, trusting & trusting to your generous forgiveness.

Four weeks ago I spent three days at Belmont, the weather was lovely, all were well, and of course I enjoyed my short visit much - Father & Mother seemed to me quite as well as when I last saw them (in Jan'y.). Sarah was well, but to me, she seemed not quite so buoyant in spirits as formerly, though very happy in contributing to the pleasure of everybody about her - She of course feels a loneliness in your absence greater than any one else. While at Belmont



I had the pleasure of having read some of your letters; I may say, they are interesting, - more so to hear, than to read - that is, to see not practiced in postage-saving paper. Sarah's eyes are not of the first water, but she has a faculty of getting through your letters wonderfully. I must Confess I have not had practice enough yet to get through them so glibly.

Emma & Eliza went with me to Belmont, and they are still there. Charlie went on last week with Mr. Manning & Mary on their way to M<sup>c</sup> Desert, to spend a few weeks. Jennie went with Mrs. Manning last week to Cornwall, so that our family is now reduced to Mamie and Carrie, (of children), and Mother, & Grandmother; all well but the last. Mrs. E. is likely to be an invalid for the remainder of her life, be it long or short, a Cancer having made its appearance in her stomach, the Dr. say.

You may have heard, through Sarah, of the engagement between Emma & Frank Lawing being broken. You are aware, I think, that the affair ~~never~~ had my approval, though I could <sup>not</sup> well help giving a sort of an assent to it. It was a childish thing from the beginning - Emma thinks now that she was too hasty, and sees much in F. that don't come up to her standard - that his habits are not exemplary - and to go farther would be wrong. So, after a pretty severe conflict with the feelings, (I think), she decidedly brought the engagement to a close - returned to Frank all the presents she had recd from him, and is now recovering from the wounds as best she can. She talks earnestly, and sensibly, it seems to me, about the matter, & promises that she won't be in haste to run into another engagement. Her friends can -



gratulate her, & think she has come to a wise conclusion. I feel that she has, & hope the experience may prove a good one. Maggie, you know, probably, is spending the summer with Sarah - Orange family about as usual - nothing of interest to say. Boop coming on after her own fashion - Ed. begins to be a little thoughtful, - but not much. F. Bridges has been at her old place, (from soon after you sailed), painting photographs. She keeps house solus, in Atlantic St. having given up part of her rooms, and living at less rent. She spends a day with us now & then, and is very well. Last week she went with the Hilliards to the Adirondacks for a vacation of 3 or 4 weeks. Mr & Mrs Manning & family frequently, Harry & his Aunt alone occupy the mansion in Clinton St. at present. Though we have <sup>had</sup> no very hot weather this summer Mr. M. has taken his departure for the fog & breezes of Mt. Desert, to cool off. Hope to see him back in three weeks, renewed in vigor and health.

Whether you are in Rome or Switzerland I don't know. In your letter of June 5. you expressed was that you were going - not to Switzerland? The report now is, (by letter at Belmont) that you had left for Switzerland. Wherever you are, may pleasure & health be with you. If Garibaldi throws hot shot into Rome I hope you will keep out of the way of them. We thank you much for your letter about the "rich lady," and when you have time you can't me more profitably, write me again. I hope you will see F. Bridges this summer. With best regards to her & Miss Manning - I remain  
affectionately  
James



French Mail  
Steamer ~~Frederick~~  
Guiding Star

James - July 20

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